

TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
CHAPTER 15 OIL AND GAS
PART 36 SURFACE WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

19.15.36.1 ISSUING AGENCY: Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Oil Conservation Division.

[19.15.36.1 NMAC - N, 2/14/2007; A, 12/1/08]

19.15.36.2 SCOPE: 19.15.36 NMAC applies to persons or entities that own or operate surface waste management facilities as defined in Subsection S of 19.15.1.7 NMAC.

[19.15.36.2 NMAC - N, 2/14/2007; A, 12/1/08]

19.15.36.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 19.15.36 NMAC is adopted pursuant to the Oil and Gas Act, NMSA 1978, Section 70-2-6, Section 70-2-11 and Section 70-2-12, which grants the division jurisdiction and authority over the disposition of wastes resulting from oil and gas operations.

[19.15.36.3 NMAC - N, 2/14/2007; A, 12/1/08]

19.15.36.4 DURATION: Permanent.

[19.15.36.4 NMAC - N, 2/14/2007]

19.15.36.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: February 14, 2007, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.

[19.15.36.5 NMAC - N, 2/14/2007; A, 12/1/08]

19.15.36.6 OBJECTIVE: To regulate the disposal of oil field waste and the construction, operation and closure of surface waste management facilities.

[19.15.36.6 NMAC - N, 2/14/2007]

19.15.36.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. Definitions relating to types of surface waste management facilities.

(1) "Centralized facility" means a surface waste management facility:

(a) that is used exclusively by one generator subject to New Mexico's Oil and Gas Conservation Tax Act, NMSA 1978, Section 7-30-1, as amended;

(b) where the generator or operator does not receive compensation for oil field waste management at that facility; and

(c) receives exclusively oil field wastes that are generated from production units or leases the generator, or an affiliate of the generator, operates (for this provision's purposes, an affiliate of a generator is a person who controls, is controlled by or is under common control with the generator).

(2) "Commercial facility" means a surface waste management facility that is not a centralized facility.

(3) "Landfarm" means a discrete area of land designated and used for the remediation of petroleum hydrocarbon-contaminated soils and drill cuttings.

(4) "Landfill" means a discrete area of land or an excavation designed for permanent disposal of exempt or non-hazardous waste.

(5) "Small landfarm" means a centralized landfarm of two acres or less that has a total capacity of 2000 cubic yards or less in a single lift of eight inches or less, remains active for a maximum of three years from the date of its registration and that receives only petroleum hydrocarbon-contaminated soils (excluding drill cuttings) that are exempt or non-hazardous waste.

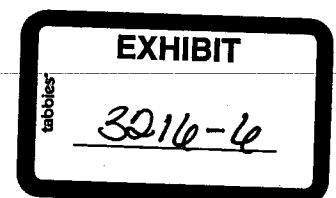
B. Other definitions.

(1) "Active portion" means that part of a surface waste management facility that has received or is receiving oil field waste and has not been closed.

(2) "Cell" means a confined area engineered for the disposal or treatment of oil field waste.

(3) "Composite liner" means a liner that may consist of multiple layers of geosynthetics and low-permeability soils. The different layers of a composite liner may have different material properties and may be applied at different stages of landfill liner installation.

(4) "Geosynthetic" means the general classification of synthetic materials used in geotechnical applications, including the following classifications:



notwithstanding the surface waste management facility permit violation's existence. A surface waste management facility permit continued under this provision remains fully effective and enforceable.

(b) An application for permit renewal shall include and adequately address the information necessary for evaluation of a new surface waste management facility permit as provided in Subsection C of 19.15.36.8 NMAC. Previously submitted materials may be included by reference provided they are current, readily available to the division and sufficiently identified so that the division may retrieve them.

(c) The operator shall give public notice of the renewal application in the manner prescribed by 19.15.36.9 NMAC. The division shall grant an application for renewal if the division finds that an acceptable application has been filed, that the conditions of 19.15.36.9 NMAC and 19.15.36.11 NMAC have been met and that the surface waste management facility can be operated in compliance with applicable statutes and rules and without endangering fresh water, public health, safety or the environment.

(3) The division shall review each surface waste management facility permit at least once during the 10-year term, and shall review surface waste management facility permits to which Paragraph (2) of Subsection A of 19.15.36.12 NMAC does not apply at least every five years. The review shall address the operation, compliance history, financial assurance and technical requirements for the surface waste management facility. The division, after notice to the operator and an opportunity for a hearing, may require appropriate modifications of the surface waste management facility permit, including modifications necessary to make the surface waste management facility permit terms and conditions consistent with statutes, rules or judicial decisions.

B. Denial of permit. The division may deny an application for a surface waste management facility permit or modification of a surface waste management facility permit if it finds that the proposed surface waste management facility or modification may be detrimental to fresh water, public health, safety or the environment. The division may also deny an application for a surface waste management facility permit if the applicant, an owner of 25 percent or greater interest in the applicant or an affiliate of the applicant has a history of failure to comply with division rules and orders or state or federal environmental laws; is subject to a division or commission order, issued after notice and hearing, finding such entity to be in violation of an order requiring corrective action; or has a penalty assessment for violation of division or commission rules or orders that is unpaid more than 70 days after issuance of the order assessing the penalty. An affiliate of an applicant, for purposes of Subsection B of 19.15.36.12 NMAC, shall be a person who controls, is controlled by or under is common control with the applicant or a 25 percent or greater owner of the applicant.

C. Additional requirements. The division may impose conditions or requirements, in addition to the operational requirements set forth in 19.15.36 NMAC, that it determines are necessary and proper for the protection of fresh water, public health, safety or the environment. The division shall incorporate such additional conditions or requirements into the surface waste management facility permit.

D. Revocation, suspension or modification of a permit. The division may revoke, suspend or impose additional operating conditions or limitations on a surface waste management facility permit at any time, for good cause, after notice to the operator and an opportunity for a hearing. The division may suspend a surface waste management facility permit or impose additional conditions or limitations in an emergency to forestall an imminent threat to fresh water, public health, safety or the environment, subject to the provisions of NMSA 1978, Section 70-2-23, as amended. If the division initiates a major modification it shall provide notice in accordance with 19.15.36.9 NMAC. Suspension of a surface waste management facility permit may be for a fixed period of time or until the operator remedies the violation or potential violation. If the division suspends a surface waste management facility's permit, the surface waste management facility shall not accept oil field waste during the suspension period.

E. Transfer of a permit. The operator shall not transfer a permit without the division's prior written approval. A request for transfer of a permit shall identify officers, directors and owners of 25 percent or greater in the transferee. Unless the director otherwise orders, public notice or hearing are not required for the transfer request's approval. If the division denies the transfer request, it shall notify the operator and the proposed transferee of the denial by certified mail, return receipt requested, and either the operator or the proposed transferee may request a hearing with 10 days after receipt of the notice. Until the division approves the transfer and the required financial assurance is in place, the division shall not release the transferor's financial assurance.

[19.15.36.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.15.9.711 NMAC, 2/14/2007; A, 12/1/08]

19.15.36.13 SITING AND OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITTED SURFACE WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES: Except as otherwise provided in 19.15.36 NMAC.

A. Depth to ground water.

(1) No landfill shall be located where ground water is less than 100 feet below the lowest elevation of the design depth at which the operator will place oil field waste.

(2) No landfarm that accepts soil or drill cuttings with a chloride concentration that exceeds 500 mg/kg shall be located where ground water is less than 100 feet below the lowest elevation at which the operator will place oil field waste. See Subsection A of 19.15.36.15 NMAC for oil field waste acceptance criteria.

(3) No landfarm that accepts soil or drill cuttings with a chloride concentration that is 500 mg/kg or less shall be located where ground water is less than 50 feet below the lowest elevation at which the operator will place oil field waste.

(4) No small landfarm shall be located where ground water is less than 50 feet below the lowest elevation at which the operator will place oil field waste.

(5) No other surface waste management facility shall be located where ground water is less than 50 feet below the lowest elevation at which the operator will place oil field waste.

B. No surface waste management facility shall be located:

(1) within 200 feet of a watercourse, lakebed, sinkhole or playa lake;

(2) within an existing wellhead protection area or 100-year floodplain;

(3) within, or within 500 feet of, a wetland;

(4) within the area overlying a subsurface mine;

(5) within 500 feet from the nearest permanent residence, school, hospital, institution or church in existence at the time of initial application; or

(6) within an unstable area, unless the operator demonstrates that engineering measures have been incorporated into the surface waste management facility design to ensure that the surface waste management facility's integrity will not be compromised.

C. No surface waste management facility shall exceed 500 acres.

D. The operator shall not accept oil field wastes transported by motor vehicle at the surface waste management facility unless the transporter has a form C-133, authorization to move liquid waste, approved by the division.

E. The operator shall not place oil field waste containing free liquids in a landfill or landfarm cell. The operator shall use the paint filter test, as prescribed by the EPA (EPA SW-846, method 9095) to determine conformance of the oil field waste to this criterion.

F. Surface waste management facilities shall accept only exempt or non-hazardous waste, except as provided in Paragraph (3) of Subsection F of 19.15.36.13 NMAC. The operator shall not accept hazardous waste at a surface waste management facility. The operator shall not accept wastes containing NORM at a surface waste management facility except as provided in 19.15.35 NMAC. The operator shall require the following documentation for accepting oil field wastes, and both the operator and the generator shall maintain and make the documentation available for division inspection.

(1) Exempt oil field wastes. The operator shall require a certification on form C-138, signed by the generator or the generator's authorized agent, that represents and warrants that the oil field wastes are generated from oil and gas exploration and production operations, are exempt waste and are not mixed with non-exempt waste. The operator shall have the option to accept such certifications on a monthly, weekly or per load basis. The operator shall maintain and shall make the certificates available for the division's inspection.

(2) Non-exempt, non-hazardous, oil field wastes. The operator shall require a form C-138, oil field waste document, signed by the generator or its authorized agent. This form shall be accompanied by acceptable documentation to determine that the oil field waste is non-hazardous.

(3) Emergency non-oil field wastes. The operator may accept non-hazardous, non-oil field wastes in an emergency if ordered by the department of public safety. The operator shall complete a form C-138, oil field waste document, describing the waste, and maintain the same, accompanied by the department of public safety order, subject to division inspection.

G. The operator of a commercial facility shall maintain records reflecting the generator, the location of origin, the location of disposal within the commercial facility, the volume and type of oil field waste, the date of disposal and the hauling company for each load or category of oil field waste accepted at the commercial facility. The operator shall maintain such records for a period of not less than five years after the commercial facility's closure, subject to division inspection.

H. Disposal at a commercial facility shall occur only when an attendant is on duty unless loads can be monitored or otherwise isolated for inspection before disposal. The surface waste management facility shall be secured to prevent unauthorized disposal.

I. To protect migratory birds, tanks exceeding eight feet in diameter, and exposed pits and ponds shall be screened, netted or covered. Upon the operator's written application, the division may grant an exception to screening, netting or covering upon the operator's showing that an alternative method will protect migratory birds or